

sury, whether these officers be employed annually or by the day. Whilst we acknowledge the emoluments of some of the officers, are by many, regarded as too high, there are many other officers effected by this bill, the duties of which are onerous, and in some instances, highly responsible, whose salaries afford to the incumbent, a very scanty and meagre support; we might readily suggest, the case of the Treasurer and his Clerk.

Nor are we fully prepared to say, that the interest of the State would at all be subserved by the contemplated reduction of the per diem of the members of the General Assembly. If competent men are desirable to insure sound and useful legislation, the compensation must be at least sufficient to protect the members from direct and positive loss, or otherwise, men of acknowledged wealth will hereafter exclusively fill our halls of legislation—a highly meritorious and useful class of the community under the operation of such reduction, will be of necessity compelled to withhold their services from the legislative halls.

We feel it to be our duty to say, in all kindness and candour, that if a regular system of retrenchment were prepared and submitted to our consideration, we would with great pleasure co-operate with you.

We would cheerfully agree to a system containing substantive and independent propositions, either for the abolishment of useless offices or the reduction of salaries where the emoluments now allowed are too high, while this can be done, without a violation of contract or without compromising the integrity and plighted faith of the State.

The bill herein referred to, passed by your honorable body, is regarded as a "money bill;" and this body, by the constitution, is inhibited from making any alteration in its essential provisions. Entertaining in all sincerity, the above views, we respectfully ask of your honorable body, to reconsider the bill herein referred to, and take such action thereon as your wisdom may suggest.

By order,

Joseph H. Nicholson, Clk.

By the Senate,

February 27th, 1845.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We return you the resolution providing for the payment of the newspaper accounts of the present session, and respectfully request you to amend it by inserting the words "and the members of the Senate during the last session," after the word "session," in the 10th line, so as to provide for the payment of newspapers ordered by the Senate at the last session, which provision was accidentally omitted by the last legislature.

By order,

Joseph H. Nicholson, Clk.

Which were read.